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\* NOT ADMITTED IN D.C.

September 30, 2002

RECEIVED

SEP 30 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 -- 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Room TW-A325  
Washington, D.C. 20554.

**Re: CC Docket No. 96-45  
FCC Rules §54.314 - USF Affidavit**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative, Inc., a rural incumbent local exchange carrier, there is submitted herewith the carrier's annual affidavit filed pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §54.314(b), in support of its eligibility to receive federal support during the first, second, third, and fourth quarters of next year.

Should any questions arise concerning this matter, please communicate directly with the undersigned.

Very truly yours,



David L. Nace

c: Universal Service Administrative Company (w/enclosure)  
2120 L Street, N.W., Suite 600  
Washington D.C. 20037

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**CC Docket No. 96-45**  
**Section 254(e), 47 C.F.R. § 54.314**  
**Certification of**  
**BLEDSON TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.**  
**P.O. Box 609, Pikeville, Tennessee 37367**

**AFFIDAVIT**

I, John Lee Downey, President of Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (the "Cooperative") do hereby certify under penalties of perjury that:

1. I am the President of the Cooperative;
2. The Cooperative is not subject to the jurisdiction of the state of Tennessee where local exchange service is provided by the Cooperative;
3. The Cooperative is a "rural telephone company" as defined in 47 U.S.C. §153(37);
4. The Cooperative is eligible for disbursements from the federal Universal Service Fund ("USF") as prescribed by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"); and
5. The Cooperative will utilize all federal high-cost USF support received in 2003 only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

Signature: John Lee Downey Date: September 27, 2002

Print Name: John Lee Downey

Title: President

State of Tennessee

County of BLEDSON

BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary in and for the State of Tennessee, on this day personally appeared John Lee Downey, known to me to be the Declarant, who, being duly sworn, executed the foregoing instrument.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 27th day of September, 2002.

My Commission expires 4-24-04.

(seal)

Lu Ann DeBord  
Notary Public